

Overview of Redistricting Criteria



2010 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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Legal Requirements



- Redistricting Plan must comply with:
 - U.S. Constitution
 - San Diego City Charter §§ 5 and 5.1
 - Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - Related statutes and case law interpreting redistricting plans and criteria

Legal Requirements



The plan “shall provide fair and effective representation for all citizens of the City, including racial, ethnic, and language minorities, and be in conformance with the requirements of the United States Constitution and Federal statutes.”

- San Diego City Charter § 5.1

City Charter Section 5.1 Requirements



- Nine districts to be created
- Composed of whole Census units, as developed by U.S. Bureau of the Census
- Each has one-ninth of City's population
 - ✦ Goal is **145,267 people per district**
 - ✦ Goal is zero deviation from this number, but standard is as little deviation as possible
- Lines not drawn for the purpose of advantaging or protecting incumbents

City Charter Section 5.1 Requirements



○ Districts are to:

- ✦ Be geographically compact
- ✦ Be composed of contiguous territory
- ✦ Preserve “identifiable communities of interest”
- ✦ Have reasonable access between population centers
- ✦ Be bounded by natural boundaries, street lines and/or by City boundary lines

“Communities of Interest”



- Residents of City to assist in identifying and preserving “communities of interest” in order to retain common activities, social and lifestyle patterns typical and desired by members of the area.
- Hearings to gather information
- U.S. Census data used to support the plan and any such findings

Key Principles



- Avoid diluting voting strength of protected classes, as set forth in Voting Rights Act of 1965; but accomplish this without race being a predominant motive
- Must justify, in good faith, any deviation from districts having equal population
- Conform with principles of federal Constitutional requirement of “one man, one vote”
- Keep communities united

Upcoming Hearings



- Public Hearing Requirements
 - ✦ Preliminary Plan: Commission required to have at least 4 public hearings in various geographic areas of the City before completing Preliminary Plan
 - ✦ Final Plan: Commission required to have at least 3 public hearings in various geographic areas of the City before adopting Final Plan

More than a map!



- Redistricting Plan is a legal document, with supporting evidence
- Preliminary Plan to include:
 - Written statement of findings
 - Reasons for adoption
 - Notation of criteria used in the process, with analysis and explanation of decisions made by the Commission
- Final Plan
 - Effective 30 days after adoption
 - If final plan is rejected by referendum of the people, the same Commission shall create a new plan pursuant to the Charter.